

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Methods of handling messages at an interface in a communication system include the steps of receiving a message having an information element indicating the message's type, determining whether a frequency of receipt of messages of a predetermined type exceeds a threshold, handling the message in a normal way if the frequency does not exceed the threshold, and discarding the message if the frequency exceeds the threshold and the message is of the predetermined type. Such methods are useful in avoiding overloads after re-starts of serving GPRS support nodes or base station systems in packet-switched communication systems.

032868-005-0001